

## February 2021 Board Meeting

February 26, 2021 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Zoom

**Present:** Meaghan Davidson, Kelsey Cummings, Naomi Nash, Lead Dodd, Barbara Settles, Zainab Shah, Megan Wenner, Jennifer Semrau, Diane Goldsmith, Tywanda Cuffy, Libbey Bowen

**Excused:** Barbara Ley, Lauren Bailes

Sherry Mendez accepted a position at a new institution so will no longer be at UD or on the board of the Women's Caucus.

### Co-Chair Updates

**Megan Wenner updates.** Women's Leadership Institute meeting (Megan and Meaghan) with Wendy - Women's Leadership Initiative in Lerner.

<https://lerner.udel.edu/centers/womens-leadership-initiative/>

- They have webinars on Fridays and a lot of great content throughout the semester
- How we could be supportive or collaborate with them
- They are very active and have a Women's Leadership course and had a lottery for women at UD.
- Also possibilities to collaborate with UD ADVANCE - who has the bandwidth and the time for this? Part of running the Women's Leadership Center, they have time, buyout, budget to run programs. We want to keep the conversation open and are happy we know that each other exists and what we do moving forward.

**Barbara Settles** mentions that maybe they can run some seminars for us and identify some good topics. Maybe they could come in and be good speakers. An issue with our caucus arrangement is that we have little budget. We could make contact with them and give them ideas that we've heard about from our constituents. These leadership efforts might only be around the academic career, but there is much more available.

**Megan** says from where they stand, they are coming more from a corporate and business world, perhaps less academic. How do women advance in these leadership positions and how can they be helped?

**Meaghan** says that the WLI would like to have a listing of contact information for similar offerings at UD (WLI, Women's Caucus, Women in Tech, etc.). Maybe this consortium of offerings for women could convene on a regular basis for networking and cross-understanding.

**Consortium of Women's Groups.** The board votes on whether or not we want to move forward on an initiative like this - a consortium of women's offerings on campus.

- Tywanda and Kelsey say that sounds like a great idea.
- Barbara Settles says that the survey could be an opportunity for support. How could we support each other? Perhaps quarterly meetings with these groups?

**Documentary about women in stem (Megan Wenner):** *Picture a Scientist*. Women from MIT put a document together driven by data. Women's salaries were lower, lab space was limited etc. There were no childcare services or centers near MIT's campus. They started to build up some childcare facilities. Can plan a Zoom call with Q&A after purchasing a screening of the film. **Are we interested in pursuing this?**

- **Barbara Settles** knows one of the first women allowed to take Chemistry at MIT when women weren't typically allowed to pursue science. This sounds like a great idea. Maybe this is something where we partner with the consortium noted above and see if they would be interested in helping.
- **Naomi Nash** suggests a possible social to discuss the film and be a social event.
- **Barbara Settles** also said we could possibly go directly to the President's Office to talk about the possibility of hosting an event for inclusion efforts. We could always do it in the fall if it doesn't work out this spring.
- **Tywanda Cuffy** had the idea of screening the movie and then join us for a live discussion on our Facebook Group. Maybe an alum leads the panel. Connecting it to people/staff at UD.
- **Zainab Shah** read that there is already a video with the director that could be used in our discussion.

Discussions of next steps to facilitate this idea will move forward from here.

**Discussion of the survey.** How can we push out the survey? How can we get as many people to take it as possible?

- Could a blurb be created to send out easily to colleagues/departments etc.?  
**Libbey/Barbara might be able to create that.** Would the unions be willing to send these things out to their members?
- Could we include it in the weekly all-staff email through OCM - **Leah will look into this.**

**Annual Report.**

**Kelsey and Leah** will follow up about next steps with the quality of the tables and what we are capable of putting out. Suggestions for ways to engage (documentaries, podcasts, articles etc.)

**Megan Wenner** - idea to feature nominations for great people on campus or retirees who needs a shout out as our feature. **Kelsey will create the Google form.**

Some ideas:

**Norma Gaines-Hanks**

**Karren Helsel Spry**

**Lisa Chieffo**

Think about elections - think about self nominating again for the great group that did not get selected last year. Outreach to them would be great.

**Ryan Schuler** asked about the wellness information provided in our newsletter.

**Kate Dempsey** has helped so much with our Facebook website and has been a huge asset to us - Leah mentioned how much help she has been. Kate also offered to help layout the annual report emails (yay!).